



75th session of the Sixth Committee

Crimes Against Humanity

(Agenda item 81)

Statement by Portugal – Mr. Sergio Carvalho (Legal Adviser)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can count on my delegation's full support.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union on this agenda item, and would like to convey the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The recent outcome of the work of the International Law Commission on this topic has strengthened our belief that it is possible – and urgent – to develop a suitable international legally binding framework on the basis of the draft Articles on Crimes Against Humanity.

The position of my delegation remains unchanged: as soon as possible, we must heed the recommendation of the International Law Commission and convene a diplomatic conference to negotiate and adopt a convention on the basis of the Draft Articles on Crimes Against Humanity. We are ready to move forward and take a decision to that effect already at this session of the General Assembly.



Such an international legally binding instrument would offer an additional important substantive and procedural mechanism towards fighting impunity and ensuring accountability for Crimes Against Humanity.

We trust that the General Assembly – through this Committee – will act on its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations to codify and progressively develop international law.

Mr. Chairman,

In line with statements we had the opportunity to deliver in previous sessions, my delegation would like to recall the Mutual Legal Assistance Initiative. Through this Initiative, the possibility of concluding an international convention to enhance cooperation among States is also under consideration – not only where Crimes Against Humanity are concerned but also other most serious crimes. The existence of the two projects should not be used as an excuse not to advance any of them.

Portugal is convinced they can be developed and implemented together towards a common goal in setting an effective and comprehensive international legal framework for the fight against these crimes.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.